

Director's Report

June 2003

Marc Gaspard, executive director

WASHINGTON
**HIGHER
EDUCATION**
COORDINATING BOARD

Lawmakers complete work on budget; adjourn special session

By Marc Gaspard

Late last week, legislators passed the 2003-05 operating and capital budgets, and both have been sent to the Governor for his signature. The new \$23 billion state operating budget eliminates a \$2.7 billion shortfall in a variety of ways, but does not include new taxes. Although funding for higher education is reduced overall by 2.6 percent, the budget does increase spending on the State Need Grant, which will help keep pace with expected tuition increases of up to 7 percent for resident undergraduates.

National Collaborative Project begins

As you know, Washington is one of only a handful of states chosen to work on higher education policy issues with the National Collaborative for Postsecondary

Policy — a consortium of education organizations that has received support from the Pew Charitable Trusts. The partnership includes three highly renowned national education groups: the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, the Education Commission for the States and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. The collaborative group held its first meeting June 2. The project will provide valuable assistance as we continue to develop the state's 2004 strategic master plan. Under House Bill 2076, which Gov. Locke has signed into law, the HECB must deliver a draft of the 2004 plan to the Legislature and Governor by December 15, 2003. The final plan will be submitted in June 2004 following legislative and public review.

National survey shows increase in state spending on student aid

HECB Associate Director of Student Financial Aid **John Klacik** was featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in April, discussing the results of a national survey on state spending for student aid. Klacik serves as president of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs, or Nassgap. The organization released its 33rd annual report April 23.

According to the report, state spending on need-based and non-need-based grants increased by 9.8 percent during the 2001-2 academic year, to \$5.14 billion — smaller than the landmark 14.5 percent rise in 2000-01, but still remarkable. When state-funded non-grant programs like work study and conditional loans are included, that figure is closer to \$6 billion.

"That there is an increase at all nationwide is significant," Klacik said in the story. "Economic times are very tough." According to the survey, Washington ranks 10th nationwide in granting need-based dollars to undergraduates, with an average of \$17.18 — higher than the national average of \$13.57. Klacik said the state's ranking has been consistent for about a decade, due in large part to a commitment to financial aid by the HECB and by state officials. Nationally, about 75 percent of the aid that states awarded in 2001-02 was based on financial need — virtually the same proportion as last year.



U.S. Supreme Court to consider Davey case

The U.S. Supreme Court decided on May 19 that it will review the case involving Joshua Davey, the theology student who sued the state after his Washington Promise Scholarship was rescinded in 1999. The state had asked the Court to

intervene after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last July that Davey's free-exercise rights had been violated. In appealing to the Supreme Court, the state argued that the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution does not require the state to make scholarships available to divinity students.

The court is expected to review the case this fall. Currently, Washington is one of 15 states that ban the use of state dollars for theology training.

The HECB will continue to abide by the 9th Circuit Court's ruling unless the U.S. Supreme Court decides otherwise. The earlier ruling requires that the HECB not prohibit awards to students because they are pursuing degrees in theology.

A reminder...

**Monday, July 7
9 a.m. - noon**

**Legislative work group
on 2004 Strategic Plan**

**Senate conference rooms A,B,C
Olympia**

Third GEAR UP conference attracts participants from 12 states



Sponsored by the Washington State GEAR UP Project, the Northwest Bridges 2003 conference in mid-May brought together nearly 200 GEAR UP supporters from as far away as Louisiana and Vermont. The event was organized by state GEAR UP Director **John McLain** and his staff, and included 20 breakout presentations on how to build and maintain college-readiness programs for children and parents.

Kati Haycock of The Education Trust kicked off the 3-day conference with an address on the "Roles for K-16 leaders in ensuring that 'No Child Left Behind' is more than a hollow promise." Haycock's presentation covered high school achievement, ratios between college attendance and completion, and theories on why some students — and schools — perform better than others. Haycock also cited a study that says the single biggest predictor of college success is the quality and intensity of the high school curriculum.

Staff news

Former work study student **My-Hahn Tran** graduated from St. Martin's College in May and has accepted the position of program coordinator for the State Need Grant Program. **Susan St. George**, program manager for GEAR UP, has been named to the newly formed advisory board for the Smarttogether Strategic Mentoring Program. The federally funded program is part of the Strategic Learning Center in Seattle, and matches at-risk youth with a circle of three mentors who are trained to support the students' academic, personal, and social success. Unique to the program is the use of evidence-based mentoring practices and the most current research.

Displaced homemakers to benefit from HECB funding

The HECB has selected 11 applicants for funding under the 2003-2005 Washington Displaced Homemaker Program. Manager **Brenda Landers** said five organizations were chosen to run *Displaced Homemaker Centers* — which will provide comprehensive, ongoing services to displaced homemakers in highly populated areas: Clark College, Community Colleges of Spokane, Olympic College, Skagit Valley College, and Pathways for Women YWCA (north King and Snohomish Counties).

Selected to provide a *Program of Service* — a smaller-scale version of a Displaced Homemaker Center — were Pierce College as well as Green River, Walla Walla, and Whatcom Community Colleges.

In addition, two organizations were chosen to provide *Mini-Programs* — offering intermittent services or serving targeted communities: Bates Technical College, and Families in Crisis (Lewis County). Funding also has been set aside for a possible contract award serving Yakima County, with an emphasis on the Hispanic population.

Created in 1979, the Displaced Homemaker Program provides intensive career counseling, job search assistance and other help to those who have spent at least 10 years as unsalaried homemakers and now need to support themselves or their families. All DHP Contractors will meet in North Bend this August for in-service training.

Scholarship programs fare well in state budget

On the heels of a very successful Washington Scholars Day event in Olympia last month, the 2003-05 operating budget approved by the Legislature includes additional funding for the scholars program and the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE). An increase of \$1.8 million reflects

students' increased use of the awards and will restore the full value of these tuition-based scholarships.

In addition, funding for the Promise Scholarship — which helps high-achieving students from low-income families — is maintained at current levels; about \$6.05 million per year.



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GET program update: Final numbers as of April 30, 2003

Current active accounts: 36,300
Total new enrollment for 2002-03: 12,299
Total payments received: \$252.9 million
Total units purchased: 7.5 million
Total value of accounts: \$364.7 million

2003-04 enrollment year:
September 15, 2003 — March 31, 2004